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# In the *Neighborhood*

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PAXTON ISSUE 4

APRIL 2005

**As you are probably aware, Nicor Gas began an environmental project in your neighborhood on March 28, and we wanted to update you on our progress.**

An environmental engineering firm is currently removing the remnants of a former manufactured gas plant located beneath the former Nicor Gas Reporting Center property at 300 N. Washington Street. This project is being conducted in cooperation with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, and the remediation of these former gas plant sites will ensure that ground conditions are suitable for future use.

## **WORK COMPLETED**

To date, the following work has been completed:

- The former Reporting Center building has been demolished and removed.
- Approximately 250 truckloads of coal tar impacted soil have been removed.
- An underground tank encountered during the soil excavation has been removed. This tank once contained mercaptan, the odorant which gives natural gas its distinctive smell.

## **THE NEXT PHASE**

Beginning the week of April 18, a large underground structure found at the site will be excavated. Coal tar is present in this area, so we want to alert you as you may notice an odor. While it may be unpleasant, this odor is harmless. The workers will take measures to minimize the odor as much as possible, such as covering excavated areas when work has ended for the day.

Depending on the weather, this removal work could extend into the following week. The total excavation project is expected to last an additional four to six weeks, with the removal of up to 30 truckloads of impacted soil per day. Then, in early to mid-summer,

construction will begin on a new “green building” reporting center.

## **QUESTIONS?**

Please know that we appreciate your patience during this process.

If you have any questions, please contact Dick Tappan, project manager for Nicor Gas at (630) 669-9363 or Bernie Anderson, regional community relations director for Nicor Gas at (309) 828-5002 ext.244.

You may also contact Stan Black of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency at (217)785-1427 or via e-mail at [stan.black@epa.state.il.us](mailto:stan.black@epa.state.il.us).